women education centres have been set up in Orissa. However an Accelerated Female Literacy Project, sanctoned in June 2003, was implemented in 9 low female literacy districts through NGOs. Under this project 49722 centres were opened in which 9,03,385 learners were enrolled.

The State Government of Orissa has also submitted proposals for Residual Illeteracy Project for 10 low literacy district to cover the residual illiterates particularly amongst the women and disadvantaged groups. In addition, several programmes are being taken up to reduce the gender gap at elementary and secondary levels. The schemes of National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) are also being implemented in Educationally Backward Blocks in the State to enroll dropout girls at primary stage.

Review of SSA and Mid-day meal programme

1217. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the backdrop of CAG report on ineffectiveness of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-day meal scheme by Centre and State Governments, Hon'ble PM have reviewed its flagship education sector programme on 22nd September, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the scheme effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister reviewed the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-day Meals (MDM) by States/UTs on 22nd September, 2006.

The Prime Minister has written to the Chief Ministers of all the States emphasizing the need for placing competent officials with stable tenures to manage these programmes. The Prime Minister has also urged the Chief Ministers of U.P., Bihar, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for improvement in the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.